Department Plans 2025-2026

Overview

Department: Youth in Foster Care

Objective:
Create clear and actionable plans for each department that set specific goals, outline the steps needed to achieve them, and ensure spending is aligned with these goals. This will help improve performance, stay within budget, and support the overall success of the organization.

Roles and Services

Department Organizational Chart (Please list names and Titles)

Manager (s)	Brian Stanley	Principal Liaison
Staff	Angela Mendoza	Student Services Transition Technician
Staff	James Russell	Youth in Foster Care Specialists

Services provided by the Youth in Foster Care Department:

1. Coordinate with departments and school staff to ensure timely and appropriate school placement.
2. Collaborate with surrounding agencies to ensure school stability and support students in school transitions.
3. Promote and support student engagement, attendance.
4. Survey and address needs for social-emotional support and academic achievement.
5. Identify, monitor and address barriers to student success (including graduation and postsecondary transition support).
6. Ensure equitable access to current school/community resources and actively seek out new opportunities for partnership therein.

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Prior Year Reflection

Accomplishments in 2024-2025 include:

- 1- Reduced district-wide suspension rate for foster youth by 4%
- 2- Increased attendance percentage by %,
- 3 Decreased Chronic Absenteeism by
- Promoted School Stability by increasing compliance with processes and procedures for appropriately placing and transporting students during all school transitions , increasing best practices in best interest determinations (BIDs).
- Increased communication between all district departments and school sites to streamline procedural best practices.
- Facilitated partnerships with caregivers and community members for increased support, including academic departments of Special Education and Office of Enrollment, legal and welfare agencies Alliance for Children's rights and Collaborate Pasadena.*
- Collaborated with (educational and child welfare agencies) –to advocate for improvements in school stability and school transitions.
- Surveyed student needs, interests and socioemotional barriers to tailor learning plans for equitable access. (Increased equitable access)

Next Steps/ Continued Actions for 2024-2025:

- Foster youth have the lowest graduation rate out of all subgroups. Immediate enrollment for foster youth continues to be a challenge. Stakeholders desire better collaboration and communication. In particular, more communication about resources, rights, and navigating challenges with the foster care system
- There is a need to define the enrollment process for youth in foster care, with a clear focus on school stability. There is a need to provide transportation for students to remain enrolled in their school of origin until Best Interest Determination can be held. School sites will need to take a

more active role in monitoring attendance and academic progress of foster youth and ensuring AB216 eligibility

- Increase case management for students and caregivers, including ongoing communication and connections to resources. Increased coordination with outside partners to meet student needs. School sites are expected to welcome and accommodate outside partners who will be supporting students at the school sites. Increased focus on enrollment processes and school stability
- We expect to have a central theme of improving literacy, expectancy of equity, and utilizing the tiers of MTSS to meet the needs of those we serve. LCAP 6- Foster Youth will experience a safe, caring and responsive learning environment where they can demonstrate academic proficiency and be a part of the learning.

Department Priorities & Goals

Actions/Strategies/Projects/Priorities for 25-26

Item #1	Budget Allocation	Timeline for Outcome/ Implementation
Foster Youth will receive **support from trained personnel intervention services** provided by a Foster Youth Liaison and a Student Support Transition Specialists.	$284,766	2025-2026

Data Used to Determine (Prior Year Data)	Alignment to Strategic Plan	LCAP Alignment	
• Foster Youth graduation rate • Chronic Absenteeism Rate	1. Learner Focused Instruction	Goal # 6	Action # 2

Success Indicators	Data Used to Determine Success	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	
• Increased Foster Youth Graduation Rate • Decreased Foster Youth Suspension rate	• Monthly attendance and suspension reports provided by CWA. • CA Dashboard	Current	Goal

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• Reduction in Chronic Absenteeism Rate			
		x	

Actions/Strategies/Projects/Priorities for 25-26

Item #2	Budget Allocation	Timeline for Outcome/ Implementation
Best Interest Determination meetings will be held for all foster youth prior to school placement in order to support school stability and provide best possible placement for each student. Transportation will be established to maintain school of origin.	$65,000	2025-2026

Data Used to Determine (Prior Year Data)	Alignment to Strategic Plan	LCAP Alignment	
• Enrollment time for students to enroll in school • Number of students remaining in "school of origin" after placement changes	1. Learner Focused Instruction	Goal # 6	Action # 1

Success Indicators	Data Used to Determine Success	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	
• Decreased number of days to enroll foster youth • Increased number of students remaining in school of origin after placement changes	• Tracing data for Average time for foster youth to enroll • School transition tracking data	Current	Goal
		x	

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Actions/Strategies/Projects/Priorities for 25-26

Item #3	Budget Allocation	Timeline for Outcome/ Implementation
Partner with CYFC to provide Academic remediation and support services at selected secondary schools.	$15,000	2025-2026

Data Used to Determine (Prior Year Data)	Alignment to Strategic Plan	LCAP Alignment	
• Foster youth suspension rate • Foster youth graduation rate	1. Learner Focused Instruction	Goal # 6	Action # 2

Success Indicators	Data Used to Determine Success	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	
Increased Foster Youth Graduation Rate Decreased Foster Youth Suspension Rate	Monthly Suspension Reports California Dashboard	Current	Goal
		x	

Spending Priorities

Spending Plan for 25-26 (lists year over year changes, **if any**) with 2 prior years spending.